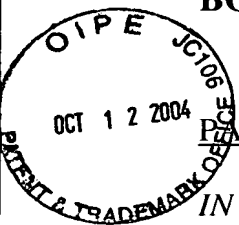


IFW

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

CUSTOMER NUMBER 25267

2700 First Indiana Plaza
135 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 684-5000



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Romano et al.
Serial No.: 10/800,952
Filed: March 15, 2004
Title: PATIENT SUPPORT
Atty. Docket: 8266-1224
Group: 3673
Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on October 5, 2004

Signature: Brion St. Amour

Dated: October 5, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicants call attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicants and their attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

REMARKS

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies are not provided of references previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/793,723, filed on March 5, 2004, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-3223. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brion St. Amour', is written over a horizontal line.

Brion St. Amour

Registration No.: 55,640

Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 684-5273
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
8266-1224SERIAL NO.
10/800,952INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT
Romano et al.FILING DATE
March 15, 2004GROUP
3673

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	AA	371,938	10/25/1887	Hinsdill			
	AB	2,029,370	2/4/1936	Heldenbrand			
	AC	2,742,652	4/24/1956	Mautz			
	AD	3,000,020	9/19/1961	Lombard et al.			
	AE	3,030,145	4/17/1962	Kottemann			
	AF	3,047,888	8/7/1962	Shecter et al.			
	AG	3,080,578	3/12/1963	Novascone			
	AH	3,421,163	1/14/1966	Stoughton			
	AI	3,268,922	8/30/1966	Moxley			
	AJ	3,580,615	5/25/1971	Prosser			
	AK	3,939,508	2/24/1976	Hall et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	GB 2 181 048	15-Apr-87	UK				
	AM	GB 2 225 229	30-May-90	UK				
	AN	GB 2 333 230	21-July-99	UK				
	AO	EP 0 464 692	08-Jan-92	EPO				
	AP	EP 0 606 892	20-Jul-94	EPO				
	AQ	CH 332754	15-Nov-58	Switzerland				

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1224	SERIAL NO. 10/800,952
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Romano et al.	
		FILING DATE March 15, 2004	GROUP 3673

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	BA	3,974,532	8/17/1976	Ecchuya			
	BB	4,347,633	9/7/1982	Gammons et al.			
	BC	4,449,261	5/22/1984	Magnusson			
	BD	4,485,505	12/4/1984	Paul			
	BE	4,486,909	12/11/1984	McKneelan			
	BF	4,494,775	1/22/1985	Nash et al.			
	BG	4,522,447	6/11/1985	Snyder et al.			
	BH	4,555,130	11/26/1985	McClain			
	BI	4,580,301	4/8/1986	Ludman et al.			
	BJ	4,631,221	12/23/1986	Disselbeck et al.			
	BK	4,638,519	1/27/1987	Hess			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	BL	WO 98/36665	27-Aug-98	PCT				
	BM	WO 99/49761	07-Oct-99	PCT				
	BN	885296	16-Jan-81	Belgium				
	BO	FR 2 656 795	12-Jul-91	France				
	BP							
	BQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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	APPLICANT Romano et al.	
	FILING DATE March 15, 2004	GROUP 3673

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	CA	4,706,313	11/17/1987	Murphy			
	CB	4,753,480	6/28/1988	Morell			
	CC	4,777,681	10/18/1988	Lück et al.			
	CD	4,788,730	12/6/1988	Bexton			
	CE	4,796,948	1/10/1989	Paul et al.			
	CF	4,803,744	2/14/1989	Peck et al.			
	CG	4,825,488	5/2/1989	Bedford			
	CH	4,890,877	1/2/1990	Ashtiani-Zarandi et al.			
	CI	4,896,389	1/30/1990	Chamberland			
	CJ	4,900,065	2/13/1990	Houck			
	CK	4,930,173	6/5/1990	Woller			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
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	CM						
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	CO						
	CP						
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	DA	4,947,500	8/14/1990	Seiler			
	DB	4,949,412	8/21/1990	Goode			
	DC	4,951,334	8/28/1990	Maier			
	DD	5,002,336	3/26/1991	Feher			
	DE	5,029,352	7/9/1991	Hargest et al.			
	DF	5,039,567	8/13/1991	Landi et al.			
	DG	5,051,673	9/24/1991	Goodwin			
	DH	5,085,487	2/4/1992	Weingartner et al.			
	DI	5,088,747	2/18/1992	Morrison et al.			
	DJ	5,107,558	4/28/1992	Lück			
	DK	5,111,544	5/12/1992	Graebe			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	DL							
	DM							
	DN							
	DO							
	DP							
	DQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	EA	5,121,513	6/16/1992	Thomas et al.			
	EB	5,182,826	2/2/1993	Thomas et al.			
	EC	5,191,664	3/9/1993	Wyatt			
	ED	5,201,780	4/13/1993	Dinsmoor, III et al.			
	EE	5,231,717	8/3/1993	Scott et al.			
	EF	5,243,722	9/14/1993	Gusakov			
	EG	5,243,723	9/14/1993	Cotner et al.			
	EH	5,243,723	9/14/1993	Cotner et al.			
	EI	5,255,404	10/26/1993	Dinsmoor, III et al.			
	EJ	5,259,079	11/9/1993	Visser et al.			
	EK	5,267,364	12/7/1993	Volk			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	EL							
	EM							
	EN							
	EO							
	EP							
	EQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	FA	5,269,030	12/14/1993	Pahno et al.			
	FB	5,294,181	3/15/1994	Rose et al.			
	FC	5,311,623	5/17/1994	Hendi			
	FD	5,323,500	6/28/1994	Roe et al.			
	FE	5,325,551	7/26/1994	Newkirk et al.			
	FF	5,364,686	11/15/1994	Disselbeck et al.			
	FG	5,373,595	12/20/1994	Johnson et al.			
	FH	5,375,273	12/27/1994	Bodine, Jr. et al.			
	FI	5,394,576	3/7/1995	Soltani et al.			
	FJ	5,403,065	4/4/1995	Callerio			
	FK	5,430,901	7/11/1995	Farley			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	FM							
	FN							
	FO							
	FP							
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	GA	5,442,823	8/22/1995	Siekman et al.			
	GB	5,454,142	10/3/1995	Neely et al.			
	GC	5,457,833	10/17/1995	Jay			
	GD	5,483,709	1/16/1996	Foster et al.			
	GE	5,513,402	5/7/1996	Schwartz			
	GF	5,513,899	5/7/1996	Michaels et al.			
	GG	5,542,136	8/6/1996	Tappel			
	GH	5,566,409	10/22/1996	Klearman			
	GI	5,586,346	12/24/1996	Stacy et al.			
	GJ	5,588,167	12/31/1996	Pahno et al.			
	GK	5,592,707	1/14/1997	Disnmoor, III et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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							YES	NO
	GL							
	GM							
	GN							
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	HA	5,594,963	1/21/1997	Berkowitz			
	HB	5,606,764	3/4/1997	Hand et al.			
	HC	5,611,096	3/18/1997	Bartlett et al.			
	HD	5,623,736	4/29/1997	Soltani et al.			
	HE	5,636,395	6/10/1997	Serda			
	HF	5,636,397	6/10/1997	Boyd et al.			
	HG	5,638,564	6/17/1997	Greenawalt et al.			
	HH	5,647,079	7/15/1997	Hakamiun et al.			
	HI	5,662,384	9/2/1997	O'Neill et al.			
	HJ	5,666,681	9/16/1997	Meyer et al.			
	HK	5,671,977	9/30/1997	Jay et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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	HL							
	HM							
	HN							
	HO							
	HP							
	HQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	IA	5,675,855	10/14/1997	Culp			
	IB	5,678,265	10/21/1997	Meyer			
	IC	5,678,891	10/21/1997	O'Neill et al.			
	ID	5,680,662	10/28/1997	Purdy et al.			
	IE	5,681,092	10/28/1997	Hanson et al.			
	IF	5,687,436	11/18/1997	Denton			
	IG	5,687,438	11/18/1997	Biggie et al.			
	IH	5,689,845	11/25/1997	Sobieralski			
	II	5,731,062	3/24/1998	Kim et al.			
	IJ	6,061,855	4/30/1998	Flick			
	IK	5,781,949	7/21/1998	Weismiller et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	IQ							

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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	JA	5,802,646	9/8/1998	Stolpmann et al.			
	JB	5,815,865	10/6/1998	Washburn et al.			
	JC	5,855,415	1/5/1999	Lilley, Jr.			
	JD	5,865,474	2/2/1999	Takahashi			
	JE	5,870,785	2/16/1999	Hoorens			
	JF	5,904,172	5/18/1999	Gifft et al.			
	JG	5,920,934	7/13/1999	Hannagan et al.			
	JH	5,926,884	7/27/1999	Biggie et al.			
	JI	5,966,762	10/19/1999	Wu			
	JJ	6,014,783	1/18/2000	Collier et al.			
	JK	6,052,851	4/25/2000	Kohnle			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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							YES	NO
	JL							
	JM							
	JN							
	JO							
	JP							
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	KA	6,269,504	8/7/2001	Romano et al.			
	KB	6,286,167	9/11/2001	Stolpmann			
	KC	2002/0073489	6/20/2002	Totton et al.			
	KD	6,415,814	7/9/2002	Hand et al.			
	KE	6,487,739	12/3/2002	Harker			
	KF	2002/0195144	12/26/2002	Hand et al.			
	KG	2003/0046762	3/13/2003	Stolpmann			
	KH	6,687,937	2/10/2004	Harker			
	KI	6,701,556	3/9/2004	Romano et al.			
	KJ						
	KK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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							YES	NO
	KL							
	KM							
	KN							
	KO							
	KP							
	KQ							

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